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Mosque Journal

My experience at the mosque was pretty interesting to me. I went with another person from class and then others met us there. We were not really sure where to go at first, so we waited until someone pointed us to the spot the ladies sit and watch in the back. Everyone there was very nice and welcoming. They were glad to have us at their service. That aspect reminded me a bit of how the church I go to back home is welcoming to everyone as well. Anyways, while we were waiting for the service to start, we looked at some of the brochures they have that anyone is welcome to take and look at. One of the ones I looked at was how to perform proper Wudu and Salah. I like how it explains what everything is in a clear way that is easy to follow. When some of the ladies came, I followed their lead on where to go and then sat with them. We exchanged a few greetings and then the service started.

The service was pretty quick. I thought that it would have been longer. I could only somewhat follow it. The sermon seemed to be about how cursing using words or deeds is bad. I feel like this aligns with everything we have looked at in class. There was even some Arabic in there, so that was cool. It makes sense too because that is what the language written in the Quran and hadiths that are spoken. The ladies were nice and helped guide me through what to do during the prayer part. All I had to do was get up and sit down at the right times as the men were standing and then kneeling on the ground. I only followed along for a few times and then stopped, but the men who wanted to kept praying.

After the service ended, I stuck around for a little bit and talked with the ladies who were there. We talked about how Christianity, Islam, and Judaism are all Abrahamic religions. This means that there is a oneness of God because he is the same in all of these religions, though he is called different names. Nobody is praying to a different God when they are a part of these Abrahamic religions. It was also interesting because one of the ladies there was not born Muslim, but she converted to be one later in life and has been one for a while now. She said she converted because she likes the way things are done in services and regular day to day life for a Muslim. She believes that the Muslim way is the best way to get things done how we want them to be done, though she recognizes the other ways people pray and go about their life are good too when it comes to the Abrahamic faiths and even when it comes to other faiths that are not Abrahamic. I thought her story was very interesting to know. It shows how not all people who are Muslim now are born Muslim which is what I feel many people think today. Islam is the same as any other religion in the sense that there are some people who are born and stay that faith, but there are also others that convert to that faith.

Another topic the ladies talked about with me and the other college students who were still there was how Muslims are everywhere. What they meant by that was that they are in many different countries from Saudi Arabia and other Middle Eastern countries to the United States and countries like New Zealand. They recognized that the Middle Eastern countries likely have the largest population of Muslims but wanted to point out how these other countries have a significant amount of people who are Muslim too. I think that part of the reason they said this was so that we know the people who are Muslim are a community, though they are everywhere. They are in all places to try to spread their wisdom and help others go to heaven. Also, I think this comment was possibly an invitation for any of us college students to keep coming to the mosque and maybe even become Muslim one day. This visit has helped me see how a religion that is different than my own goes about everything in their lives. It has given me more perspective on how Islam works in our world today.